

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A solar cell module edge face sealing member for, where solar cell module construction is such that one or more solar cell module bodies are captured within one or more frame bodies, sealing one or more gaps between at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies and at least one of the frame body or bodies,

the edge face sealing member having an undivided structure and being formed in frame-like shape in substantially parallel fashion with respect to one or more outer shapes of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies;

the edge face sealing member being substantially C-shaped in cross section and/or substantially U-shaped in cross section;

wherein the edge face sealing member comprises:

one or more upper sealing regions abutting one or more front surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies;

one or more lower sealing regions abutting one or more back surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies; and

one or more side sealing regions abutting one or more edge faces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies; wherein

the upper sealing region, the lower sealing region and the side sealing region are made of a same material and formed in an integral and continuous manner;

the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region being disposed so as to open to the outside therefrom at either side from edge portions of the side sealing region;

the edge face sealing member having an undivided structure captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies while capturing at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies along substantially an entire edge portion perimeter thereof,

wherein the upper sealing region, the lower sealing region and the side sealing region make a tight contact with the solar cell module body or bodies when the edge face sealing member having an undivided structure is captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies; and

when the edge face sealing member is captured by a groove of the frame body, the edge sealing member is deformed in parallel fashion with respect to the inside surface of the groove, the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region being squashed and coming in intimate contact with the front surface and the back surface of the solar cell module body, respectively, the side sealing region coming in intimate contact with the edge face of the solar cell module body, so that the edge face of the solar cell module body is completely sealed by the edge face sealing member;

wherein tip portions of the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region are formed in a bent fashion so as to be inclined toward a groove recess, and wherein a distance between said tip portions is substantially the same as or is less than a thickness of the edge portion of the solar cell module body or bodies, and

wherein, there is substantially no gap between the one or more upper and lower sealing regions of the edge face sealing member and the one or more front and back surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies, respectively, when the edge face sealing member is captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies while capturing at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies along substantially an entire edge portion perimeter thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the lower sealing region or regions is longer than at least one of the upper sealing region or regions.

4. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 1 wherein:

at least one surface of at least one of the upper sealing region or regions and at least one surface of at least one of the lower sealing region or regions face each other; and

one or more projections are formed on each of at least two respectively facing surfaces among the upper and lower sealing region surfaces which face each other.

5. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 4 wherein at least one of the projection or projections comprises one or more single-rib or multiple-rib regions formed in parallel fashion with respect to one or more perimeter edge portions of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies.

6. (Original) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 4 wherein one or more tip portions of at least one of the lower sealing region or regions and at least one of the upper sealing region or regions are disposed in inclined fashion at respectively facing sealing region surfaces.

7. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies is of integrally laminated superstrate construction such that the following layers are laminated in order over one or more light-receiving glass surfaces constituting one or more front surfaces:

one or more light-receiving-surface sealing resin layers comprising ethylene vinyl acetate;

one or more solar cells;

one or more back-surface sealing resin layers comprising ethylene vinyl acetate; and

one or more weather-resistant back-surface sealing films.

8. (Original) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 7 wherein at least one material making up the edge face sealing member is elastomer resin.

9. (Original) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 8 wherein the elastomer resin comprises one or more polypropylenic and/or polystyrenic resins.

10. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 9 wherein:

at least one of the polypropylenic elastomer resin or resins is a PP-EPDM copolymer; and

at least one of the polystyrenic elastomer resin or resins is polystyrene - isoprene copolymer.

11. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 9 wherein the elastomer resin comprises one or more additives of porous structure preventing yellowing of at least one of the sealing resin layer or layers.

12. (Original) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 11 wherein at least one of the additive or additives is magnesium silicate.

13. (Original) A solar cell module edge face sealing member according to claim 12 wherein at least one of the additive or additives further comprises one or more ultraviolet-resistant agents.

14. (Currently Amended) A solar cell module comprising:
one or more solar cell module bodies captured within one or more frame bodies, wherein:
one or more edge face sealing members, frame-like in shape, are formed in substantially parallel fashion with respect to one or more outer shapes of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies;

the edge face sealing member has an undivided structure and is substantially C-shaped in cross section and/or substantially U-shaped in cross section;

the edge face sealing member comprises:

one or more upper sealing regions abutting one or more front surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies;

one or more lower sealing regions abutting one or more back surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies;

one or more side sealing regions abutting one or more edge faces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies; wherein

the upper sealing region, the lower sealing region and the side sealing region are made of a same material and formed in an integral and continuous manner;

the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region being disposed so as to open to the outside therefrom at either side from edge portions of the side sealing region;

at least one of the edge face sealing member or members having an undivided structure is captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies while capturing at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies along substantially the entire edge portion perimeter thereof,

wherein the upper sealing region, the lower sealing region and the side sealing region make a tight contact with the solar cell module body or bodies when the edge face sealing member having an undivided structure is captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies; and

when the edge face sealing member is captured by a groove of the frame body, the edge sealing member is deformed in parallel fashion with respect to the inside surface of the groove, the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region being squashed and coming in intimate contact with the front surface and the back surface of the solar cell module body, respectively, the side sealing region coming in intimate contact with the edge face of the solar cell module body, so that the edge face of the solar cell module body is completely sealed by the edge face sealing member;

wherein tip portions of the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region are formed in a bent fashion so as to be inclined toward a groove recess, and wherein a distance between

said tip portions is substantially the same as or is somewhat less than a thickness of the edge portion of the solar cell module body or bodies, and

wherein, there is substantially no gap between the one or more upper and lower sealing regions of the edge face sealing member and the one or more front and back surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies, respectively, when the edge face sealing member is captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies while capturing at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies along substantially an entire edge portion perimeter thereof.

15. (Original) A solar cell module according to claim 14 wherein at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies is of integrally laminated superstrate construction such that laminated in order over one or more light-receiving glass surfaces constituting one or more front surfaces there are:

one or more light-receiving-surface sealing resin layers comprising ethylene vinyl acetate;

one or more solar cells;

one or more back-surface sealing resin layers comprising ethylene vinyl acetate; and

one or more weather-resistant back-surface sealing films.

16. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member of claim 1, wherein the edge portions of the side sealing region are curved.

17. (Previously Presented) A solar cell module edge face sealing member of claim 1, wherein the edge portions of the side sealing region are cut diagonally so as to produce chamfered surfaces.

18. (Previously Presented) The solar cell module edge face sealing member structure of claim 1, comprising at least one projection extending inwardly from an interior surface of each of sidewalls, and wherein the respective tip portions extend further inwardly than do the respective projections when the solar cell module body and edge face sealing member are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body.

19. (Currently Amended) A solar cell module edge face sealing member structure comprising:

at least one solar cell module body adapted to be provided in at least one frame body,
an edge face sealing member adapted to be located at least partially between the frame body and the solar cell module body, the edge face sealing member for sealing one or more gaps between the frame body and the solar cell module body;

the edge face sealing member having an undivided structure and being formed in frame-like shape in substantially parallel fashion with respect to one or more outer shapes the solar cell module body;

the edge face sealing member encapsulating the solar cell module body along substantially the entire edge portion perimeter of the solar cell module body;

wherein the edge face sealing member is substantially U-shaped and has first and second sidewalls which are connected to each other via a bottom wall, and wherein each of the sidewalls

includes a distal end tip portion that is angled relative to a main body of the sidewall so that the tip portions angle inwardly toward and contact the solar cell module body when the solar cell module body and edge face sealing member are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body, wherein an upper sealing region, a lower sealing region and a side sealing region make a tight contact with the solar cell module body when the edge face sealing member having a unitary structure is captured within the frame body, and

when the edge face sealing member is captured by a groove of the frame body, the edge sealing member is deformed in parallel fashion with respect to the inside surface of the groove, the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region being squashed and coming in intimate contact with the front surface and the back surface of the solar cell module body, respectively, the side sealing region coming in intimate contact with the edge face of the solar cell module body, so that the edge face of the solar cell module body is completely sealed by the edge face sealing member; wherein

the upper sealing region, the lower sealing region and the side sealing region are made of a same material and formed in an integral and continuous manner, and

wherein, there is substantially no gap between the one or more upper and lower sealing regions of the edge face sealing member and the one or more front and back surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies, respectively, when the edge face sealing member is captured within at least one of the frame body or bodies while capturing at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies along substantially an entire edge portion perimeter thereof.